GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1533
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
PURCHASING OF AIR BUSES AND BOEING FOR I.A./A.I.
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to purchase Air Buses and Boeings for the Indian Airlines and the Air India;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether no plane was purchased till date after 1991 and only the planes taken on lease are being used; and

(d) if so, the rational behind spending crores of rupees on the purchase of planes instead of taking them on lease?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Indian Airlines proposal for 43 aircraft comprising 19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A-321 manufactured by Airbus Industrie with engines from CFM International was considered by the PIB in its meeting held on 10.11.2004. The net project cost is Rs.10089 crores. In its meeting held on 24.11.2004, Air India Board has approved a revised fleet plan as per which the fleet size of Air India would be enhanced from present level of 34 aircraft to 74 aircraft by the year 2012/13. Air India project report in this regard has, however, not been received by the Government.

(c) and (d): Indian Airlines had inducted Airbus A-320 in December,1994 whereas Air India had inducted 6 B747-400 aircraft in a phased manner from 1993 to 1996. Both the airlines need to purchase aircraft to meet their expansion plan as leased aircraft pose several operational limitations and are not essentially a cheaper option in the long run. A dry lease transaction would be for a few years, whereas a purchased aircraft can be used till it gets sold or phased out.